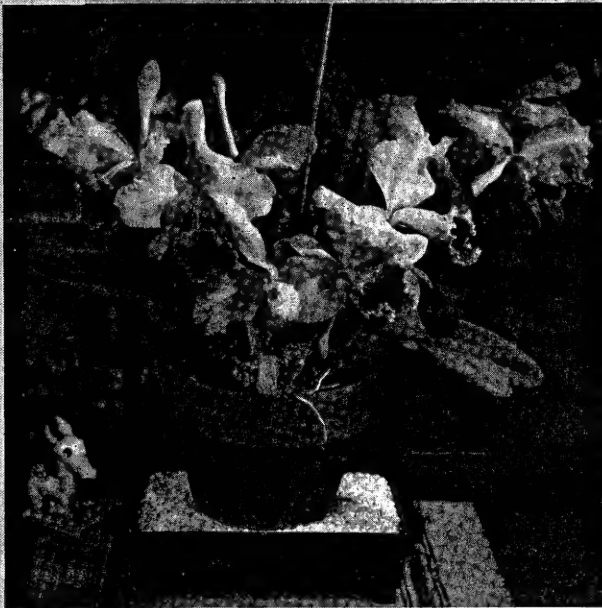
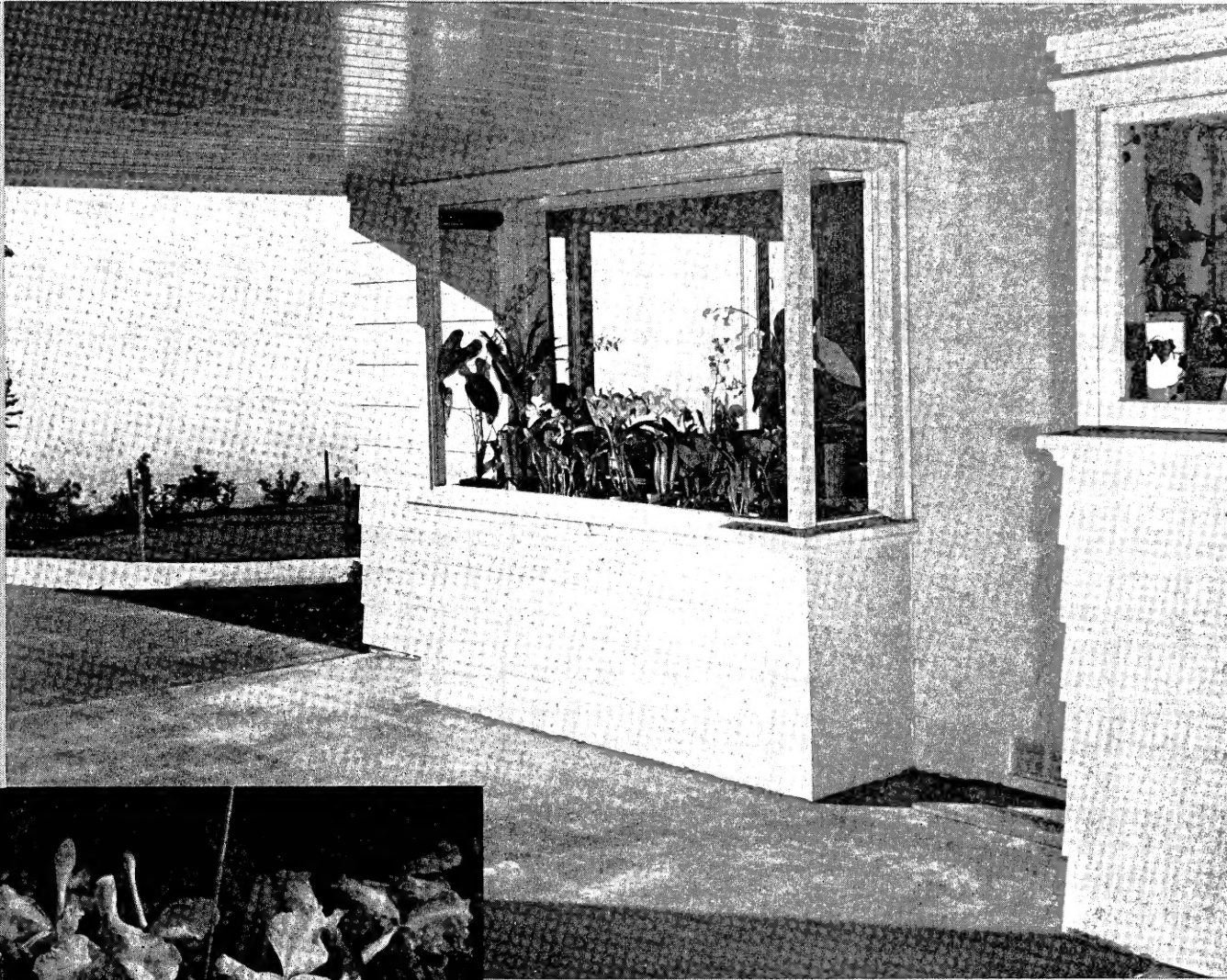


# HOW TO GROW ORCHIDS ❖ ⋮



IN  
YOUR HOME ❖  
⋮

Rod McLellan Co.

# Your New Orchid Plant...

You have just received your new orchid plant and now wonder what to do first. Perhaps you have heard many stories about orchids— delicate, temperamental, require special care, etc. Actually, your orchid is a hearty plant.

First of all, decide on a place to best show your plant. Choose a location where it is displayed to best advantage—for your friends' enjoyment, as well as your own. Your only restriction is that the place be free from cold or warm drafts. (Suggestions and photographs throughout this folder may give you some ideas.)

Your plant may have come equipped with an attractive bamboo "slip cover" (see cut on page 4. If not, use any container you may have, or none at all, just as you wish.

If your plant was delivered in bud, rather than in bloom, place it in a bright window until the buds open. Once it is flowering, you may move it to the location of maximum display.

The orchid flowers will bloom for about two to six weeks, depending upon the specie of plant. The only attention the plant will need during this time is watering according to directions found in this folder. After the flowers have been open four to five days, you may wish to cut them for use as corsages, boutonnieres, or table arrangements. If so, place the flowers immediately in water for several hours after you cut them. This will keep them fresh and add to their life.

## *After the flowers fade*

When the blooming period is over, select a growing area for your plant that will help it prepare itself for blooming again next year.

Of course, if you live reasonably close to "Acres of Orchids" and haven't the few minutes necessary to care for this easy-to-grow house plant, you may want to place it in our "plant boarding house" (see page three for details).

However, if you're like most people, keeping the plant and producing your own blooms next year will have special appeal to you. It's part of the great enjoyment in growing orchids. Many collectors started their hobby from the first gift plant sent them.

## To Bloom Your Plant Next Year

### *Finding a growing area*

First step is to find a growing area, and this may be anywhere you have a bright window, removed from drafts, where your plant will get morning and afternoon DIRECT sun. The plants need be protected only from burning, midday summer sun in a window collection. If you have one of the newer floor to ceiling windows, you may adjust for the added light by placing your plant back 18 inches to 36 inches from the larger windows, but, **KEEP YOUR GROWING AREA BRIGHT.**

Where extremely cold, freezing nights occur, the plant should be temporarily set back from the window, so it will have a protective air space against the "deep-freeze" cold of the window.

### *How to provide extra humidity*

In the growing area, the potted plants should be set on pebbles in a tray, with water level as shown in the photograph, just below the surface of the pebbles. Always leave a little space between the bottom of the pot and the water, to permit air to circulate, and to pick up moisture from the wet pebbles. This increases the humidity about the plants. The exceptions to this are Cyripediums and Cymbidiums, as noted on page five, both of which may rest in the water for some time with beneficial results. You may use any sort of pebbles you wish. We have small packages available, in white, black and red, but any pebbles which may be available in your locality will be fine.

No doubt you will want to remove the wilted blooms from your plant, too, if you have not already done so. This you do by just cutting the flower stem. Do not cut leaves or bulbs. The new growths for next year sprout from the old growths.

### *Temperature requirements*

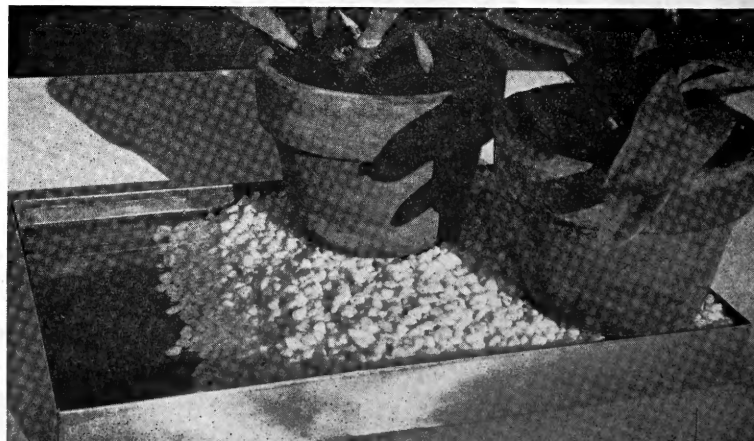
Orchids are not at all the delicate plants most people think they are. Within loose bounds, they will adapt readily to conditions offered by any modern home. Usually, for growing purposes, we group them into three temperature classes.

THE MEDIUM TYPES are represented by the Cattleyas, Epidendrums, mottled leaf Cyripediums, and such lesser kinds as Oncidiums, and others. The ideal minimum is 62° nights, with high 70's days. Considerable OCCASIONAL deviations will have no effect since most orchid plants adapt themselves so readily to temperature conditions, just as they do in nature.

THE COOL TYPES are represented by the Odontoglossum grande, Cymbidiums, and plain leaf Cyripediums, among others, and should be kept five degrees cooler than the Medium Types.

THE WARMER TYPES are represented by the Phalaenopsis and Vandas; they should be kept five degrees warmer than the Medium Types.

**Properly Arranged Humidity Tray**—Cut away shows water level below the surface of the pebbles, to provide air circulation.





## How to water

Again, not all orchid plants have the same requirements, so far as watering is concerned. They may be grouped into three categories, according to their differing moisture needs.

**CATTLEYAS, LAELIOCATTLEYAS, BRASSOLAEIOCATTLEYAS, ONCIDIUMS**, are epiphytes, or "air-rooted" types, with built-in water tanks called pseudobulbs. They like a minimum of moisture, with a chance to dry out between waterings. In normal weather, a 6 inch pot of this type will need about three cups of water every five days or so. In very hot, dry weather, the five day period may be decreased to three or four, and in cool, wet weather, increased to six or seven. The important thing to remember is to treat this group with studied neglect, and if you must err, err on the dry side.

**PHALAENOPSIS**, and **VANDAS**, while also epiphytic, do not have the built-in water tanks for water storage, and their requirements are about the same as any ordinary house plant. Water enough to keep the potting mixture **DAMP** but not **DRIPPING** at all times.

**CYPRIPEDIUMS** and **CYMBIDIUMS** are yet another type so far as watering is concerned. These are known as semi-terrestrials, or terrestrials, which means "earth-rooted", and they need an abundance of moisture at the roots to do well. Unlike the other two groups, they do not mind wet feet, and the bottom of the pots may stand in water for some time after watering.

In watering all types, just pour the water into the top of the pot. Much will seem to drain through the drainage hole in the bottom, but more is retained by the porous, absorbent potting mixture than you would think. In determining when to re-water, the best practical test is to feel the potting compound. Not just the surface, but stick your fingers into it. It will feel harsh and dry to the touch if it needs water. If still damp, your fingers will note the moisture.

## Feed frequently but lightly

Most orchids suggested today for the home are potted either in osmunda or shredded fir bark, such as our own **WONDERBARK**. How much and how often you feed is determined by which type is used.

For feeding orchid plants, use any of the new totally water soluble commercial **ORCHID** feeds, such as Gaviota, or Formula 312. Follow the manufacturer's directions as to frequency of feeding. Plants potted in **WONDERBARK** should be fed two or three times as often as those planted in osmunda. Just add the fertilizer to the regular watering. It is simple to use, and requires no extra trouble. Also, when you water, do not be afraid to run water through the pot to rinse away excess deposits of feed (salts) which may be harmful if allowed to accumulate.

## Repotting with WONDERBARK



## When to repot

When the plant growth outgrows the pot, usually about every two years it is time to repot. Most plants today are potted in **WONDERBARK** (fir bark), rather than the traditional osmunda, because the bark mixtures are as simple to use as ordinary soil potting mixture, and do not require the special techniques of osmunda. Should you wish to perform this chore yourself, write to us for detailed directions.

## In general, just enjoy your orchids

Orchids are free from plant pests, and almost never will they need spraying of any sort; if you think they may, write, describing symptoms, and your present care. We are glad to give this information **FREE OF CHARGE** at any time. Should you wish more detailed information on care or general history, there are many good books available, either for purchase (we carry them all), or at your local library. Among the better ones are "Orchids as House Plants" at \$3.50, by Rebecca T. Northern; "Home Orchid Growing" by the same author at \$6.50 and "Your First Orchids", published by the Oregon Orchid Society, at \$1.25.

## If you buy additional orchids

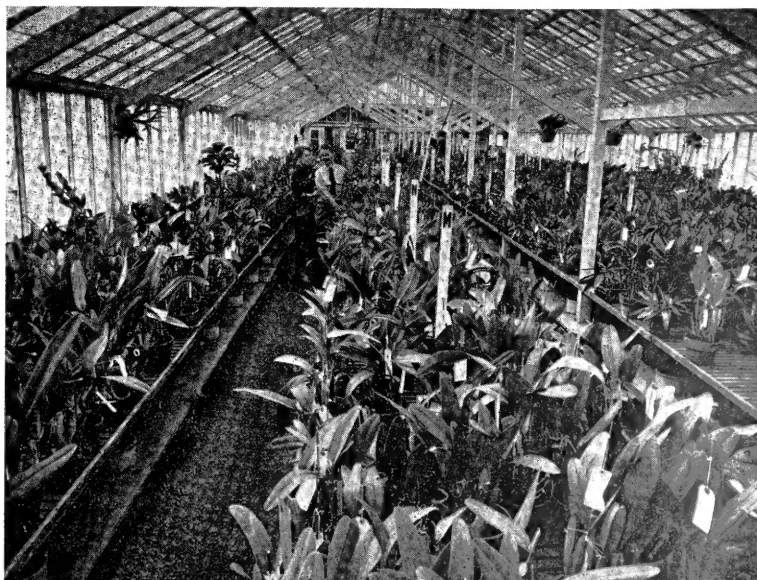
If you fall under the spell of orchid collecting as a result of your gift plant, you will, of course, want to purchase additional plants. Color and kind will in large measure be determined by your personal taste, but at the start, to avoid pitfalls of many beginners, we suggest your purchase only reasonably priced, mature, potted plants, in bud, for quick results and added interest. Stick to the better known types, such as Cattleyas, and save the exotic things for later. Purchase only from reputable, established firms, such as ours, who are willing to guarantee satisfaction, and who will give you cultural help free for the asking.

## We "Board" your plants

Our plant "boarding" house is fairly bursting at the seams! (See cut below). Our friends in the area have entrusted to our care thousands of their best loved house plants, because they know we coddle them as we would a rich old uncle.

A perfect service for nomads, busy people (and, who isn't these days?), vacationists, or the just plain lazy who want to have their cake and eat it, too. Complete care in our modern greenhouses, and we notify you when the plant is in bud, so you may pick it up, or have it delivered, just as you wish. All of this for an average charge of only 40 cents per plant per month! Write for details, or 'phone.

## "Boarding House" for Your Pet Plants





## Common abbreviations Of Orchid names

The abbreviations used on orchid plant labels may puzzle you. The following list, and their full names help.

- C. — Cattleya (i.e. C. Angel Island means Cattleya Angel Island)
- Lc. — Laeliocattleya
- Bc. — Brassocattleya
- Blc. — Brassolaeliocattleya
- L. — Laelia
- O. or Odont. — Odontoglossum
- Epi. — Epidendrum
- Cyc. — Cycnoches
- V. — Vanda
- Phal. — Phalaenopsis
- Cym. — Cymbidium
- Cyp. — Cyripedium

## A do-it-yourself Cattleya

The Cattleya Labiata shown on the cover was grown on a library window sill. The photograph shows one year's production out of four consecutive years during which over 30 flowers were produced. The plant received full direct sunlight the year 'round. Note how close to the window the plant was grown.

## To display blooming plants

When your plant is in bloom, you will want to display it to the very best advantage, of course. We have available many beautiful and reasonably priced ornamental pots. Some are designed to be used as "slip covers", while the plants may be potted directly into others for year around extra beauty, even in the growing area.

One of the best and easiest to use and store of these slip covers is the expandable sleeve of bamboo pictured above. Available in natural and mahogany, in varying pot sizes, write for complete list. Special quantity discounts available.

## Orchids with your morning coffee!

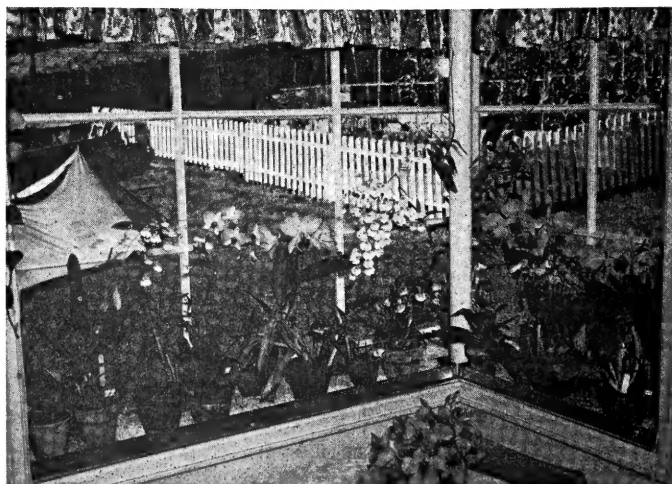
The breakfast room pictured to the right was designed to house this growing orchid collection. Wide sills provide for the built-in humidity trays, and the large windows admit the bright strong light, so necessary for good flower production.—What a beautiful way to start the day!

## The perfect Orchid home garden

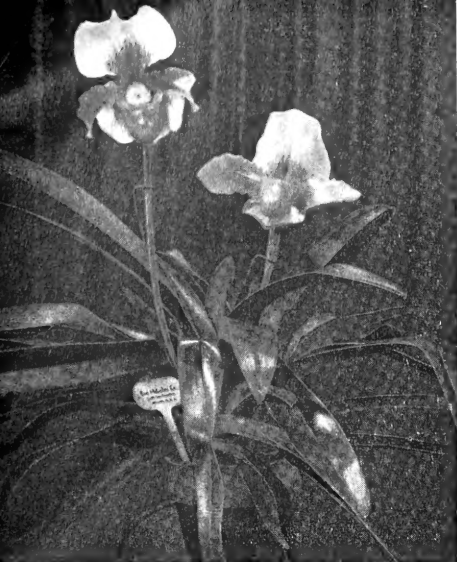
(See cover cut)

The photograph on the cover, of the George Johnson home in Piedmont, California, testifies to the complete fascination of orchid collecting, for it was literally designed around a home collection. Special windows with built-in humidity trays make a perfect setting for the plants, whether in flower or not.

The Breakfast Room an Orchid Collection Built







**CYP. YERBA BUENA**—A Rod McLellan hybrid of the Medium group. Will grow well in the home, with your Cattleyas.



**ODONT. GRANDE**—"The Tiger Orchid", for one of the cooler spots in your home, Native of Mexico.



**CYM. ERICA SANDERS**—Wonderful flower production from this cool orchid, which may be grown outdoors in areas with no frost.

## Special Catering Services to Orchid Collectors

Our ranges, as one of the most extensive importing, exporting and hybridizing orchid firms in the world, is geared to service every need of the orchid collector. We shall be glad to give full information on any of these upon request.

### *Repotting service for local growers*

If you live near enough, bring any of your plants to us, if you don't want to be bothered with the chore of repotting them. We can do it while you wait, or better, leave them, and pay us a return visit when you pick them up . . . there is always something new to see at "Acres of Orchids". Charges are minimum, and are based on the size of the pot the plant is put into. For instance, a 6 inch pot will cost \$1.00, complete, including pot, potting material, wire, stakes, and labor.

### *Budget plans for quantity purchasers*

For those who want a full orchid collection NOW, rather than wait to acquire it plant by plant, we have made special arrangements with Rodco, our Budget Man (see cut). Being Scotch, he is interested in saving you money, while satisfying your impatience. Write for details.



### *Orchid-of-the-month club*

What a magnificent gift! Seven plans which you may vary to suit yourself, offer a variety of prices, of flowering season, flower form, and color, at generous discounts. Write for free folder.

### *Slides for club and garden group programs*

We have available, free upon request, several groups of colored slides. Full information upon request.

### *Special tours for club groups*

By advance reservations, we shall be glad to provide free of charge, a special tour of our orchid ranges, and general greenhouses for your next club program. As a member of the San Francisco Tour Bureau, we are equipped to take care of groups numbering as many as 500. Call or write for tour folder and details.

### *Lecture service to club groups*

By prearrangement (we ask at least 30 days notice), we will send one of our experienced orchid growers to your local group, for interesting talks on orchids and orchid growing.

### *Complete plant & accessories service*

Whether you want one or a hundred additional plants, a bag of pebbles, or a can of fertilizer, we have it. Make your plant selections yourself from our extensive ranges, or write for our catalog, if you are not already on our mailing list.





**Traffic Jam at Our Annual Open House**

## Orchids as **GIFTS**

- For the retiring executive
- For the happy birthday or anniversary
- For an absent loved one
- For a business opening
- For a shut-in
- For an institutional gift
- For someone who has everything
- For the hospitalized
- For you, just for fun



**Rod McLellan Co.**

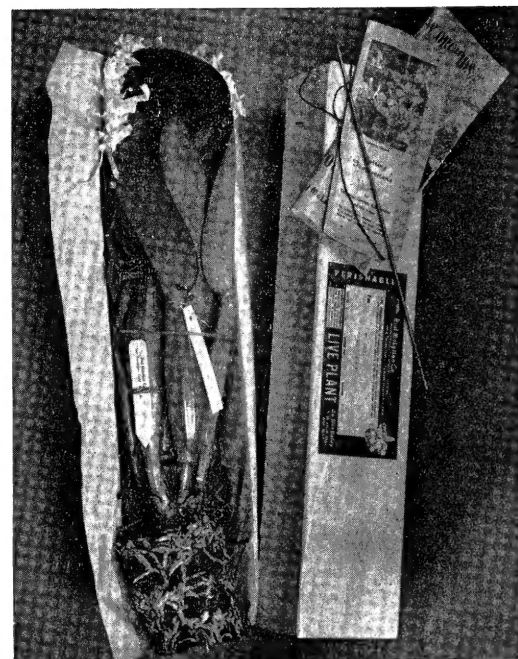
Orchid Hybridizers - Importers - Exporters  
1450 EL CAMINO REAL  
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., U.S.A.  
PHONE PLAZA 6-0330

## *Please Visit us Soon*

"Acres of Orchids" just loves visitors, and visitors just seem to love "Acres of Orchids". The photograph to the left shows "The City's Finest" coping efficiently with the traffic jam which resulted at our Annual Spring Festival. Hundreds of orchid lovers traveled hundreds of miles to admire our thousands of Easter blooms, and maybe even bragged a little about their home collections. If you live near enough, drive in to see us. Free tours daily at 10:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. For those of you just here for a short visit, special arrangements may be made by 'phone to fit into your busy schedule.



**Left, Packed for Shipping  
Right, Packed for Local Gift**



**Economical Out-of-Pot Package**—complete with Wonderbark, stake, tie, and potting instructions.

